DISNEY COLLECTION
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A Newsletter for the Horticulture Division of Walt Disney World

Every Bloomin' Thing

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Vol. 6, No. 10 October 1984

PLANTING IDEAS

In conjunction with the Seminars Department many new means of communicating horticultural information to our guests are being marketed. These programs allow the guest to select the extent of horticultural information they desire and enable them to enroll in a program that will fit their schedule. One or more instructors from the Horticulture Division host each group giving instruction and answering questions.

The various programs include:

THE ART AND SCIENCE OF GARDENING AT WALT DISNEY WORLD which is a four-hour workshop including an opening classroom presenting an overview of the role and scope of horticulture at WALT DISNEY WORLD as well as a presentation and design activity on landscape design. A backstage field trip to the Nursery highlights experimentation and production of horticultural specialties such as topiary and hanging baskets. A walking tour of World Showcase emphasizes the various themes as they relate to the design concepts and specific plant materials of selected World Showcase countries.

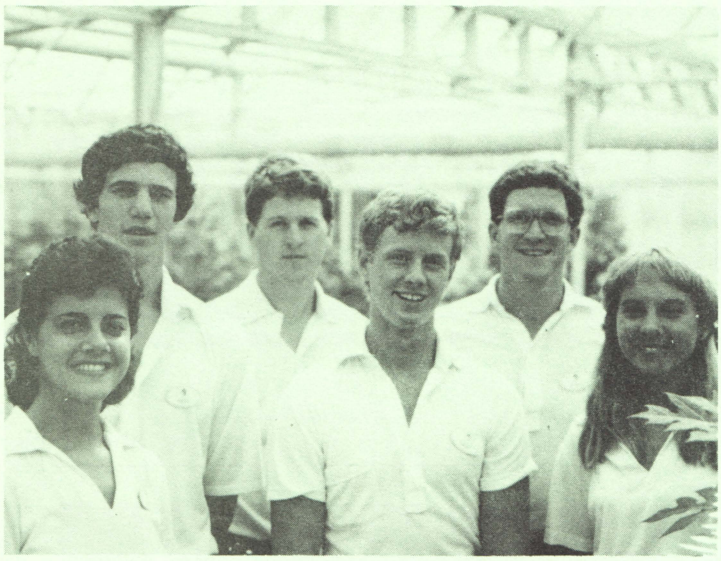
To date twenty-three groups with over six hundred twenty-five persons have attended this workshop session. The cost is thirty dollars plus admission to EPCOT Center. Garden clubs, education groups, convention groups, and many landscape related company groups have been among those attending. This workshop is also included on the last day of the four-day Discovery Series.

LANDSCAPING FOR THE HOME GARDENER is a more detailed five-day Vacation Seminar with numerous tours, classroom presentations, and greater exposure to our Horticulture experts. In addition, agriculture at The Land, floral design, and zoological horticulture at Discovery Island are included.

Pictured above with Mickey is the first group to attend a Horticulture Vacation Seminar which was during the last week of August. Gary Paul, pictured on the left, is a pest control operator at the Land and was the Horticulture instructor and host for the group. The cost is three hundred ninety-five dollars which doesn't include lodging.

GARDENS OF THE WORLD is a two-hour presentation that has just begun at EPCOT Center as one of several Theme Park Learning Programs. An opening classroom in the Teachers Center in West Communicore at EPCOT Outreach is followed by an instructional walking tour of the gardens of World Showcase. The cost for this program is ten dollars plus admission to EPCOT Center.

PROFESSIONALS NURSERY TOUR is designed to allow groups of horticulture industry professionals a chance to tour our Nursery facility to observe experimentation and production of new plant materials and techniques. A topic presentation by one of our Horticulture staff will be included. The cost is only fifteen dollars.



STUDENTS AT THE LAND

Kraft, Inc. will soon join WALT DISNEY WORLD in sponsoring the Agricultural Student Program at The Land. This program has been operational since the opening of EPCOT Center, but has grown in scope from two to six participants per six month term.

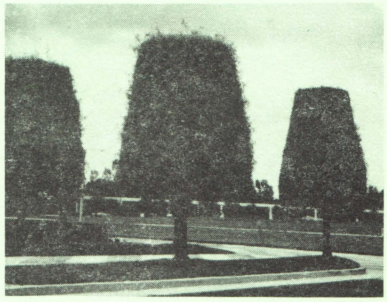
Agricultural junior or senior students from various disciplines are recruited through the Professional Staffing office from universities throughout the United States. They are selected for their desire to learn and communicate agriculture, and for their potential to contribute to agriculture in the future. Special brochures on the program are available from Professional Staffing.

While here, the students work full time as part of the agronomy staff at The Land. They spend additional hours in instruction and discussion sessions with the permanent staff, and in the development and completion of individual study projects.

Most students return to finish school at the completion of their program here. We're very proud of Ceil Driscoll (Florida), Susan Griffith (Arizona) and Craig Davis (Ohio) who had already finished school and decided to stay on in WALT DISNEY WORLD Horticulture.

The current summer/fall 1984 Land Agriculture Students are (l-r): Susan Fowler (Indiana), Paul Lewis (Rhode Island), Glenn Parker (North Carolina), Gary Nowaczyk (Michigan), Steve Boyd (South Carolina), and Sylvia Doyle (Florida).

Peter Cook
Technical Specialist
The Land



Untreated Dixie-Cup Oaks

GROWTH REGULATORS

During the past year, Horticultural Pest Control in cooperation with the 3M Company, has been working on several projects involving Embark (mefluidide), a plant growth regulator. We have made definite progress in reducing landscape maintenance through the use of Embark, which allows us time to do other needed work.

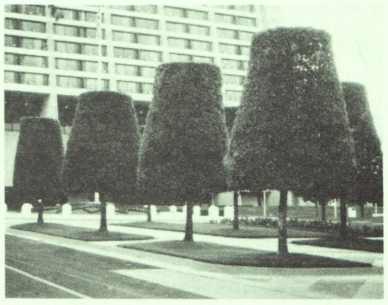
The mode of action for Embark is the reduction of cell elongation and it is very effective on certain turf and ornamentals.

One area of testing we are particularly interested in is the reduction or elimination of seed heads on Zoysia grass. The seed head, which developes each fall, gives the turf a purple-brown color which distracts from the desired green color. Hopefully, through a low application rate of Embark, we can minimize or eliminate this objectional quality of Zoysia turf.

A second area of interest is the use of Embark along the edges of woody ornamental beds and walkways to reduce the need for repeated mechanical edging. Tests are currently being conducted at WALT DISNEY WORLD and EPCOT Center on Zoysia, St. Augustine, and Bermuda grasses, however, it is not effective on Bahia grasses.

Horticultural Pest Control is also working on a long list of ornamentals. These applications will hopefully lead to an expanded label on uses of Embark.

Contributed by
Phil Flanagan



Treated Dixie-Cup Oaks

GOOFY GOES GOLFING

A new member joined the WALT DISNEY WORLD Golf Classic this year - a podocarpus topiary of Goofy. With club in hand and a waving arm, golfers and guests were greeted at the entrance to the Palm and Magnolia Courses with a little touch of "Horticulture Magic".

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RECIPE FOR A SUCCESSFUL GARDEN

First plant three rows of peas...
- PATIENCE
- PROMPTNESS
- PRAYER

Next plant three rows of squash...
- SQUASH INDIFFERENCE
- SQUASH GOSSIP
- SQUASH CRITICISM

Then plant five rows of lettuce...
- LET US OBEY THE LORD
- LET US BE LOYAL
- LET US BE UNSELFISH
- LET US BE TRUE TO OUR OBLIGATIONS
- LET US LOVE ONE ANOTHER

Finish with four rows of turnips...
- TURN UP WHEN NEEDED
- TURN UP WITH A SMILE
- TURN UP WITH A VISION
- TURN UP WITH DETERMINATION

Good luck with your garden!

Contributed by
Pat McCarty

HORTICULTURE SUPPORTS UNITED WAY

Contributions from the Horticulture Division increased from last year to 69% participation. A total of $610,000 was pledged from WALT DISNEY WORLD to help surpass the $5.5 million goal of the Orange, Osceola, and Seminole Counties campaign by $200,160. A special thank you to Debbie Snow, our Horticulture Campaign Coordinator, and to all of you pledging your support.

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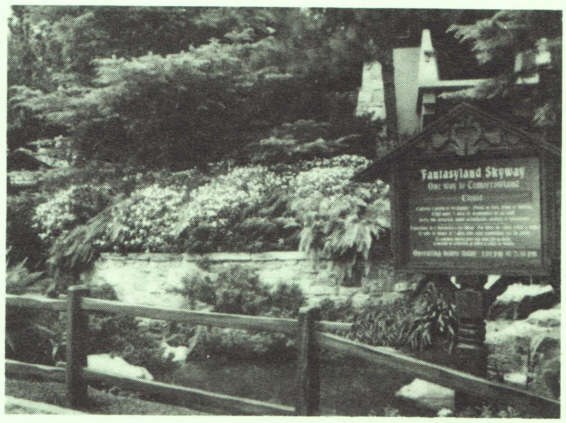

A FRESH LOOK FOR FANTASYLAND SKYWAY

I feel it's time to relate a positive side to the 1983 freeze. I'm sure this won't change the attitudes of the Eucalyptus specialists, but we did experience some benefits at the Fantasyland Skyway.

Over the years, the natural "Swiss Chalet" theme had become a bit too natural. The plumbago began taking over the deodar cedars. Cinnamon and leather leaf ferns had attacked the front side, totally dominating the thryallis, pfitzers, agapanthus and morea. Serious irrigation problems had developed: poor coverage in some areas and continuous saturation in others.

By mid January, we were thrilled to witness the fern-less Christmas present Mother Nature had left us. The combination of the freeze and the rehab allowed us to cut back everything. Irrigation was restored to permit solid coverage.

At this point, the plumbago is looking good while being maintained at a reasonable height. The thryallis has really benefited from less competition from the cinnamon fern but the latter is making an effort to dominate again.

I'm looking forward to the 1984 freeze -- just kiddin', Andy!

Jon Strantz, Lead
Fantasyland/Liberty Square

DISNEYLAND RECOVERS FROM OLYMPICS

With the Olympics over, Southern California is slowly returning to its normal state. This means increased weekend crowds and vehicle traffic.

One thing that the Olympics did bring was much attention to horticulture. All the Olympic facilities were nicely landscaped resulting in an improvement to other surrounding areas and their gardens. Southern California looked like a beautiful garden spot to the entire world.

Here at DISNEYLAND, we put on a show to rival any of the Olympic sites. We experienced some high temperatures and humidity, but our landscape came through with flying colors. This included blue petunias, red salvia, and white alyssum, to name a few. (Notice these are patriotic colors - they did well in representing our country.)

Ken Inouye, Superintendent
DISNEYLAND

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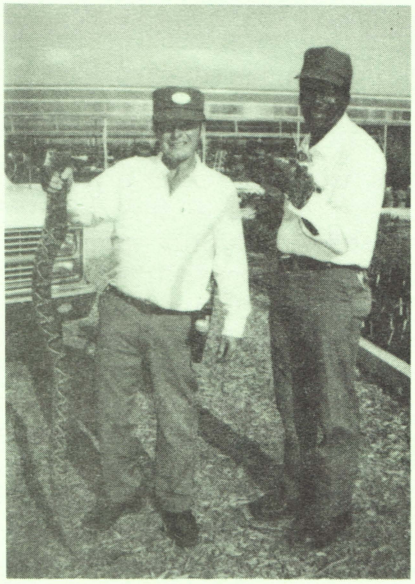

GOODNESS SNAKES ALIVE

Bob Snyder (left) and Charles Dowdell (right) of Structural Pest Control proudly display a huge diamondback rattlesnake they recently killed outside the landscape office at the Nursery. With a length over 6 feet and 11 rattles, it was shocking to Sue Manney who stumbled upon it. This was only the second rattlesnake they have had to handle this year on property. With the approach of cooler weather the snakes move to warmer places, such as roadways, so be sure to keep an eye out for them. Keep out of their way and call Pest Control.

MICKEY MOUSE VISITS DIVISION PICNIC

Beautiful weather and a great turnout made for a successful Horticulture Division Family Picnic. Mickey and Minnie Mouse posed for many pictures with those attending. Terrific food, challenging games, and great sounds complete with a "DJ" were some of the highlights. Grand prize raffle winners included: Renee Worrell-dinner for two at the Top-Of-The-World, Ben Brogdon-one night camping at Fort Wilderness, and Buddy Tyson-a Mickey Mouse telephone. A gift plant for each cast member concluded the evening. Thanks to Hank, our new Director, for bringing his daughter and sharing this time with us.

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A NOTE FROM KATY

As fall welcomes us with a little touch of cool weather and sunshine a little earlier in the morning, we too are experiencing important changes this season. Currently a great deal of re-organization is taking place throughout Walt Disney World - and within Horticulture.

We already miss Pat and others whose inspiration and guidance have helped to make Horticulture at Walt Disney World exceptional. Others are now showing tremendous support for our efforts - we thank them and look to the future with hope.

We have already been experiencing a number of moves. The management of the Horticulture Division is being restructured and we will share these changes with you as soon as we can. An update will hopefully be presented in our next month "Every Bloomin' Thing". It remains our special responsibility to put on a top show for our guests. A positive attitude and a little extra effort can help us all make it through this important transition period.

We have been a great team in horticulture and can continue to be one - if we keep our sights to our special goal of making horticulture at Walt Disney World unique in all the world. Let's keep working together to make it happen.

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